Vol. IV. Numb. 26.

THE OBSERVATOR.

The Affair of New-found-land *further consider'd under two Heads.* 1. *What part the Publick may Rationally be expected to act in that Concern.* 2. *What part the* Merchants-Traders *and* Fishery.

From Wednesday June the 27th, to Saturday June the 30th, 1705.

Country-m. MAster, a little more of this *New-found-land* Business; my head has been among the *Furr-Trees* ever since we parted; I have Dream't of nothing but *Cod* and *Lobster* every Night: But, pray Master, how came we to lose this *Profitable Plantation?*

Obs. Country-man, That's a Pernicious Question; 'tis not fair to make *Conclusions* of things from bare *Surmises*. I can't tell you how many Ships we had appointed for the Guard of that *Fishery*; nor do I know the *Condition* of the *Garison*, and under what *Management*: This I am certain, 'tis none of my fault; I beg'd and pray'd to our late *Parliament* to mind the *Tack* at *New-found-land*. I told you how it would happen, but we minded the *Occasional-Conformity-Bill*, the *Tack*, the I don't know what. *Trade* was neglected, nothing but *Contention*, Mean *Cavils* and Idle *Impertinencies* of *Parties* was minded. So, in short, Honest *Country-man*, 'twas the *Parliament* lost *New-found-land*.

If your *Trade* be destroy'd, your *Traffick* neglected, your *Liberties* invaded, the *Publick-Treasure* misapply'd, the *Funds* for *National Service* converted to *Private Uses*, *Frauds* encouraged, and *Honesty* disregarded, 'tis long with your *Parliament*, 'tis in their Power to rectifie all these things; they can grind to Powder the greatest *Cheat* in the Kingdom, and can stop the most impetuous Torrent of *Mismanagement*; but if they make themselves Partners in the Desolations of our *Country*, by Conniving at *Mismanagements*, Encouraging *Ill-Service*, and Discountenancing or Punishing *Good*, e'en thank your selves, 'tis your own *Unhappy Choice*; and if you design for the future to take care of your *Trade*, take care of your *Elections*.

Not only the Eyes of *England*, but those of all *Europe* are upon the ensuing *Parliament*; on the *Unanimity* of that Honourable House in their Proceedings, depends, not only the *Safety* and *Happyness* of *England*, but, in a great measure, the *Fate* of all *Europe*; and who knows but this Loss may prove our gain, when it shall come under the *solid Debates* of a *House of Commons*, from whom we expect so much, and, perhaps, before whom will be brought as much *Publick Business* as ever happn'd in the compass of three Years.

You know, Honest *Country-man*, I have spoken at large of the *Fishery*, and particularly of that at *New-found-land*; but new Misfortunes may create new Ideas of things; various Methods must be used under various turns of Fortune; and what is convenient and useful at one time may not be so at another; but in the Consideration of the Preservation of *New-found-land*, I shall confine my self to these two Heads. 1. *What part the Publick may Rationally be expected to Act in this Concern.* 2. *What part the* Merchants-Traders *and the* Fishery. Both of which being chiefly concerned in the *Profit*, ought to be as much concerned in the *Charge*.

The Advantage of the Publick is so very considerable, that the *Banks* of *New-found-land* is set the next Jewel in the Crown of *England* to that of the Plantation Trade of *Tobacco*: I mean here of the Customs only as a Branch of the Revenue. For in Respect of a National Advantage there is no Comparison betwixt the one and the other.

Notwithstanding the weak Efforts of the little Scriblers of the Age to render our Navy *useless*, by introducing *Absurd Securities*, altogether Inconsistent with our *Constitution*, I shall still maintain our *Wooden Walls* as the chief Defence of our *Realm*, our *Trade*, our *Navigation*, and the Queen of *Englands* undoubted Right to the Empire of the *Sea*.

To maintain all these, our wise Ancestors made *Generous Allowances* by *Imposts*, *Duties* and *Charges* on Home and Foreign Commodities Imported or Exported. For the Original of the Customs was not for the maintenance of the *Civil List*, as after Ages have term'd it; the vast Sums arising by Duties on Trade were never mean't for the Payment of *Pensions*, Allowances to *Court-Favourites*, and an Infamous Band of *Parasites* and *Flatterers*, as has been the Practice in some Reigns backwards, but for providing sufficient Convoys for our Merchantmen, for to maintain the Honour of the Crown on the Ocean, and the Safety of the Realm in General.

This being premised, the *New-found-land* Trade has then a Demand upon the Crown of *England*, a Claim of Right to a *Quota* of our Naval Force to maintain the Security of their Trade, and to keep them unmolested from the Enemy during the time of the *Fishing*.

And the Government of *England* seems obliged, by Reasons of *True Policy* and *Interest*, to have a particular Concern for the *New-found-land* Trade. For if our Shipping be the *Walls* of our Island, those *Walls* cannot be defended without Men, and that Trade is the most Benificial that provides most Men for the Defence of those *Walls*, and herein the *New-found-land* Trade overtops all the Trades in *England*.

For the manner of that Trade is thus. Not one third of the Persons employ'd in that Trade are Sailors, the rest are Country Fellows, that go on the Shipping about the middle of *March*, and return again in the latter end of *September*, or the beginning of *October*, at which time the Ploughing Season for Corn comes on, when they go hard to work in that *Concern*; so that these are a sort of Men of an *Amphibious Nature*, serving their Country in a double Capacity, and on that Account ought to have the greater Encouragement.

Certainly

Certainly no *Peasants* in the Habitable World can live better, or get more Money than those concerned in this *Trade*. In the *West* of *England* the general Contract betwixt the *Merchants* and *Freighters* with these Men is by shares; according to the Success of the *Voyage* their Profit arises, and very often they divide upwards of Twenty Pounds a Man clear Profit; many of them in a few Years time become *Boats-Masters*, which enhances the Profit, and many of these in time become *Merchants*, *Owners* and *Freighters* themselves; and 'tis well known in the *West Country*, how many Rich Families have had their rise from such small beginnings.

But as to the *National Advantage* of this *Trade* 'tis almost incredible, the Fish carried from *New-found-land* to *Foreign Markets*, and Barter'd there for *Foreign Commodities*, which, brought to *England*, brings an Immense Sum into the *Queens Exchequer*; we'll throw that in as *Paper* and *Pack-Thread*, as an inconsiderable thing, in respect of so many Thousands of *Sailors* that are bred in this Nursery for the Use and Defence of the *Queen* and *Realm*.

Now, Honest *Country-man*, Judge you whether a Trade so Beneficial to the Queen and Realm ought to be lost? And whether a thing of this Nature be not highly worthy the Consideration of the Representatives of the Kingdom? I know not the State of our Strength there either by *Land* or *Sea*: But 'tis a strange thing, that our Commanders ashore, or those at Sea, who ought to be Men of the best Parts and Knowledge, have never yet given us any Ideas of the True Interest of *England* in relation to that *Trade*.

Notwithstanding the *English* have been in Possession of that Country above 100 Years, so Negligent have we been in *Profitable Improvements* and *Enquiries*, that it is a Point yet undecided, Whether the Country of *New-found-land* be an *Island*, or on the *Continent* of *America*. And notwithstanding I have seen and enquir'd of that *Trade*, I could never yet know, or hear of any Native of *England* that has been 20 Miles up that Country. God knows, after we have pass'd the Woods, what spacious Plains, Level and Fertile Countries may be found; what Towns, Cities and Trading People are there!

The neglect of Discoveries is the great Fault of the *English* Nation. There are Natives of *New-found-land*, some Straglers we have often seen on the Sea Coast, our People give 'em the Name of *Savages*, that's all they know of 'em, never having had any Converse with a Native; but by their Habit and Mein we believe 'em to be of the same Clan with the *Canada Indians* on the *Continent*.

I must leave this Discovery as a proper undertaking for the Government, and come to Consider the part the *Merchants*, *Owners* and *Freighters* ought to act in the Preservation of the *Fishing Trade* at *New-found-land*.

Paying of *Customs* is not all the *Merchant* is to do for the Preservation of *Trade* and *Navigation*. They ought to have Good and Defensible Ships, and not the least Bark using the *New-found-land Trade* in time of *War*, but what ought to have small Arms for every Hand it employs; I have many times observ'd it on the Publick Accounts, when our Ships have been taken by the Enemy, that had the *Merchant-Men* done their Duty, and assisted the Queens Ships in Fight, when they have been over-power'd by Numbers, they might have sav'd themselves and the Nations *Ships* too. This is a thing worthy Consideration, and 'tis a fit Enquiry, what Methods may be used to Oblige *Merchants Ships* to Engage in Battle, I know but one Hindrance, and that is, the Wounded *Seamen* on Board *Merchant-Men* have no *Smart-Money*, no *Hospital* or *Pension* from the Chest at *Chatham*.

To bring this Point home to the Argument we are upon. Perhaps, when our Accounts arrive from *New-found-land*, we may find that the loss of that place may, in a great manner, be owing to the Negligence of the *Fishery*. When the *Ships* come thither they all Un-rigg, and are Laid-up. Their Guns may be taken ashore and mounted on the Natural Fortifications in the Harbours Mouth, so as best to annoy the Enemy; they need not be Puzzl'd to get *Booms* to run cross the Harbours, the whole shore is covered with Woods fit for that purpose; they have no occasion to Fish in the open Harbours, they have other Places enough; and tho' we cannot suppose 'em capable to defend a Harbour against a Powerful Force, yet by doing their utmost they may protract the time till the *Queens Ships* shall come up to their Relief.

Thus, Honest *Country man*, have I given a short Account of the *New-found-land* Affair, with my Opinion thereon; and however displeasing it may be to some of my Enemies in Power, as long as I believe it to be my Duty, I shall not be concern'd what the Effects may be.

Advertisements.

THE Famous Cholick-Water (so often mentioned in the Gazette, particularly in Thursdays the *26th* of *April*) being so well known throughout *England*, for giving speedy Relief in Cases of Wind, Wind-Cholick, Vapours of both kinds, Sinking of the Spirits, Stitches and Pains of the Sides, Gripes, Fluxes, Vomiting or Loosenes, and all Indispositions and Weakness of Stomach and Bowels (immediately digesting any thing that offends) that the Author thinks it would lessen it to say more of it, therefore, only gives further Notice that 'tis continued to be Sold at these four places, (viz.) *Old Man's* Coffee House at *Charing-Cross*, *Alice's* at the *Parliament-House*, *Richard's* at *Temple-Bar*, and at *Clark's*, Stationer, in *Birchin-Lane*, at *2 s. 6 d.* a Bottle. 'Tis not Purging, but a Rich Cordial, pleasant to take at any Time; and of Excellent use to carry to Sea, being an immediate help in Fluxes, Gripes, *&c.* When once try'd none would be without it. Beware of Counterfeits that under other Names imitate it, and live only by thus Pirating upon one and another. The true is Sold at the four places before Named, and no where else in England.

AN Humble Address, which being Prepared for, and Dedicated to every Member of the Church of *England*: Hereby is propos'd to the serious perusual and due regard of each of 'em, who are nearly and greatly concern'd therein; one of which said Addresses may be had by such as shall Vouchsafe to come or send therefore, to a Backward Ground Room in *Pinners-Hall*; the passage to which Room, is thro' a Court Pav'd with flat broad Stones, on the Left Hand side of *Broad-Street*, *London*.

LAugh and be Fat: Or, an Antidote against Melancholly. Containing, 1. Great Variety of Comical Intrigues and Stories, in Town and Country. 2. Poems on various Occasions. 3. Witty Epigrams and Whims. 4. Epitaphs Serious and Comical. 5. Pleasant Songs and Ballads. *Written by the most Ingenious Authors of the Age.* Price Bound 1 *s.*

THE Travels of an *English* Gentleman from *London* to *Rome* on Foot, Containing a Comical Description of what he met with Remarkable in every City, Town, and Religious House in the whole Journey. Also an Account of their Ridiculous Religion, Processions and Ceremonies in their Churches, thro' their Streets and in their Woods. Likewise, The Debauch'd Lives, and Amorous Intrigues of the Lustful Priests and Leacherous Nuns. With an Account of the Opening the Holy Gate of St. *Peter's* Church. Also Reflections upon the Superstitions and Foppish Pageantry of the last Grand Jubilee at *ROME*. *Now Published for the Diversion and Information of the* Protestants *of* England. Price bound One Shilling. Both Sold by J. How, at the Seven-Stars, in Talbot-Court, in Grace-Church-Street.

THese are to give Notice, That Mary Kirleus, Widow of *John Kirleus*, Son of Dr. *Thomas Kirleus*, a Collegiate Physician of *London*, and Sworn Physician in Ordinary to King *Charles* II. is the only Person that Sells (exactly prepared) his Famous Drink and Pill, which is Eminently Experienced to Cure all Ulcers, Sores, Scabs, Itch, Scurfs, Scurvies, Leprosies, Venereal and *French* Disease, Running of the Reins, and all such Malignities, tho' never so Inveterate, in all Constitutions at all Seasons of the Year, hindring no Business, without Fluxing, or the use of *Mercury*, which is generally Destructive. These Medicines are Truly and Faithfully prepared, as directed by her Husband, and as made and delivered to his Patients by her in his Life time (they being the only Persons then that Sold it, and to whom the Secret was ever imparted. Therefore beware of several late false pretenders, for the daily certain and speedy Cures she performs will sufficiently recommend her Excellent Medicines, she Cures many after Fluxing, and in Compassion to the Distressed will deal with all persons according to their Abilities. The Drink is *3 s.* the Quart, the Pill 1 *s.* the Box, with Directions. She gives her Opinion for nothing to all that write or come to her, to those afar off as if they were present.

* She is Removed from the *Glass-Lanthorn* in *Plough-Yard*, to the *Golden-Ball*, in *Hand-Court*, over-against Great Turn-Stile, in *Holbourn*.

London, Printed for the Author, *John Tutchin*. 1705.